GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4787
ANSWERED ON:30.03.2017
Water Storage in Reservoirs
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the concerns raised by world meteorological agencies about the effect of El Nino bringing drought like situation in India this year and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether water storage availability in major reservoirs of the country is very low as compared to the last year, till mid March, 2017 and if so, the details thereof and the reasons for the same, region-wise;

(c) whether the Government has worked out any strategy and held consultation with States to meet the challenge of scarcity of water during the ensuing summer season;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the response of the States thereto; and

(e) the other corrective measures taken/ being taken by the Government to ensure sustainability of water in the country during summer season particularly drought affected areas?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) World Meteorological Agencies have indicated possibility of El Nino conditions to develop over Pacific later this year. None of these agencies have mentioned about its negative impact on the Indian monsoon rainfall this year. According to various studies, there is no one to one relation between these two events.

(b) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 91 reservoirs of the country on weekly basis and issues weekly bulletin on every Thursday. The live storage available of these reservoirs was 54.962 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) on 23.03.2017 as compared to 41.704 BCM during same week of last year. The region-wise live storage available as compared to last year live storage available during March is at Annexure I. The main reason of change in available water is rainfall and water demand etc.

(c) to (e) State Governments undertake several measures to ensure sustainability, augmenting, conserving and utilizing the water resources which inter-alia include conservation of water resources in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water.

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This Ministry provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes viz. Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Scheme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water-bodies etc. The measures taken by the Government to manage water resources in the country are:-

â€¢ Keeping in view the less water available in some of the regions, CWC have issued advisories to the State Govts./UT's on 28.12.2016 and 23.02.2017 to use the available water prudently and efficiently to tide over any possible water shortage in the coming Summer Season.
â€¢ The Government has taken up a major programme for completion of 99 ongoing AIBP projects at a cost of Rs. 77,595crores to create irrigation potential of 7.6 mha.
â€¢ Special focus is given through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water in the over exploited blocks. In addition, priority has been given for construction of farm ponds in the year 2016-17 to harvest rain water and recharge groundwater.
â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
â€¢ CGWB has also prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during 2013, involving ground water scientists/experts. The Master Plan envisages construction of 1.11 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country at an estimated cost of Rs.79,178 crores to harness 85 BCM of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purpose. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
â€¢ Besides, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws

or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.
â€¢ CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

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ANNEXURE-I

Annexure referred to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.4787 on "Water Storage in Reservoirs" for answer on 30.03.2017.

Region-wise live storage available as compared to last year live storage available during March (23.3.2017).

S. No. REGION / STATE NO. OF RESERVOIRS MONITORED LIVE CAPACITY AT FRL
(BCM) LIVE STORAGE (BCM)
CURRENT YEAR LAST YEAR LAST 10 YRS. AVG.

NORTHERN REGION
1 H.P. 2 12.39 1.98 3.13 3.72
2 PUNJAB 1 2.34 0.84 0.53 0.76
3 RAJASTHAN 3 3.28 1.20 0.92 1.05
SUB-TOTAL 6 18.01 4.02 4.58 5.53
EASTERN REGION
1 JHARKHAND 5 1.79 1.14 0.56 0.84
2 ODISHA 7 15.33 8.81 6.52 7.14
3 W. BENGAL 2 1.39 0.44 0.31 0.36
4 TRIPURA 1 0.31 0.14 0.16 0.04
SUB-TOTAL 15 18.83 10.53 7.55 8.38
WESTERN REGION
1 GUJARAT 10 13.00 7.00 3.66 6.09
2 MAH. 17 14.07 5.29 2.60 5.74
SUB-TOTAL 27 27.07 12.29 6.25 11.83
CENTRAL REGION
1 U.P. 2 6.36 3.04 1.42 1.61
2 UTTARAKHAND 2 4.81 1.03 0.75 1.63
3 M.P. 6 27.32 13.50 10.33 8.45
4 CHHATISGARH 2 3.81 2.55 1.55 2.10
SUB-TOTAL 12 42.30 20.12 14.04 13.79
SOUTHERN REGION
1 AP&TG 2 15.13 0.91 0.78 3.44
2 A.P 1 1.99 0.38 0.95 0.93
3 TELANGANA 2 2.92 1.04 0.23 0.66
4 KARNATAKA 14 23.49 4.15 4.73 6.59
5 KERALA 6 3.83 1.21 1.60 1.64
6 T.N. 6 4.23 0.31 1.00 1.57
SUB-TOTAL 31 51.59 8.00 9.29 14.83
COUNTRY AS A WHOLE 91 157.80 54.96 41.70 54.35